

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 8-11 have been added. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,421,425 to Bossi et al. ("Bossi"). The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the rejection.

The Bossi reference is directed to a communications system that allows Baudot-formatted text data from a TTY device to be carried over the Internet after the text data has been converted to the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) which is required for communication over the Internet. Col. 2, lines 21-25. Similarly, TCP/IP packets, typically originating from a sound-unimpaired person, which are destined for the Text Teletypewriter (TTY) of a sound-impaired person, are received at a server on the Internet and converted to Baudot-formatted text data for delivery to the TTY. Col. 2, lines 26-30.

In using the system, a sound-impaired person desiring communication with a sound-unimpaired person directs a call and associated call setup information to a Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS), (col. 4, lines 40-41). The call setup information includes the telephone number of the intended recipient. Upon receipt of the telephone information, the TRS launches a query to a database that attempts to map the called party's telephone number to the IP address of the called party. If no IP address can be found, the call is completed in the conventional manner, e.g., via a telephone. If an IP address can be found, a determination is made as to whether the called party is currently on-line. If the called party is on-line, the called party is notified of the call. If no response to the notification is received the call is transmitted in the conventional manner.

In contrast to the Bossi reference, the present invention is directed to a system and method for providing interpretive services to a user, wherein the requirements for interpretive services are defined by the user. In the present invention, a user can access the interpretive services from any location having access to a network. In contrast to the Bossi reference, the user in the present invention is not attempting to contact the service to provide a connection with

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another user for communication, but rather, is contacting the interpretive services to provide communication services to the user, for example, at his or her present location, or at a specified time. In the present invention, the party with whom the user desires to communicate can be, and typically will be, present in the same location, in contrast to the Bossi reference.

The Office states that the Bossi reference teaches all of the limitations of claim 1. The Applicant contends that the Bossi apparatus fails to teach all of the limitations of claim 1. In particular, claim 1 requires a user computer, “wherein the user computer is accessible by a first user and a second user” (as amended and emphasis added). In the Bossi reference, the user computer is not “accessible by [both] a first user and a second user.” Indeed, in the Bossi reference, each user is resident at a different location and each accesses their own devices. More specifically, a sound impaired person will initiate a call via a TDD to a non-sound impaired person. The non-sound impaired person may respond via the Internet or via conventional telephone equipment. In no instance, however, is the equipment used by the first user to initiate the call “accessible” to the second user, nor is the computer or conventional telephone equipment used by the second user “accessible” to the first user. Indeed, if both attempted to access the same equipment, the Bossi service would be unable to provide communication services as it is not configured to transmit the interpreted communication to the same equipment from which it received the communication to interpret, nor is the transmitting equipment configured to receive the interpreted communication. Indeed, the service configures communications received from the TTY equipment in a format compatible with the telephone or Internet, and reconfigures received communications from the telephone or Internet back to a format compatible with the TTY equipment. Thus, the Bossi reference fails to teach “a user computer, wherein the user computer is accessible by a first user and a second user”. As the Bossi reference fails to meet this limitation, the Bossi reference fails to anticipate claim 1 as it fails to teach every limitation of claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. As claim 1 is not anticipated by the Bossi reference, claims 2 and 3 are not anticipated by the Bossi reference. Claim 3 is further not anticipated by the Bossi reference as the Bossi reference fails to teach “the means for

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receiving and transmitting audio and visual information ... contained within a single housing having a first side and a second side.” Additionally, the Bossi reference fails to teach “wherein the means for receiving and transmitting the audio and visual information for the first user computer resides on the first side of the housing and ... for the second user computer resides on the second side of the housing”.

The Office states that the Bossi reference “teaches each user having an equipped PC on either side to convert the communication into a format that the user can use”. This however does not teach the claim language; namely, a *single* housing having a first side and a second side. If each user is equipped with his own PC, then the means for receiving and transmitting audio and visual information for the first and second user computer are *not* contained within a single housing. Rather, each computer has its own housing. Thus, two separate PCs cannot meet the claim language requiring “means for receiving and transmitting the audio and visual information for the first user computer resides on the first side of the housing and ... for the second user computer resides on the second side of the housing” as there is no “*single housing having a first side and a second side.*”

The Office further states that the Bossi reference teaches claims 4 and 7 as it “teaches providing an interpretive service, defined by the user”. The Office suggests that the services are “defined by the user” in that the protocol convenience server and TTY are used when the second user accepts TDD. The Applicant respectfully contends that this is a strained and inappropriate reading of this reference. In Bossi, the first user accesses the only equipment that is available to him, for example, the TTY. The first user is not *requesting* any type of user-defined request criteria as required by the claim language (“the request for communication services including user-defined request criteria”). The user is simply requesting to be connected to the party associated with a particular telephone number, and no user defined criteria is being transmitted with the initiation of the call. Indeed, the first user does not require or identify the modality by which the second user should respond, nor is the user identifying any criteria by which the interpretive services are to be performed. The user’s act speaks for itself, namely, he is requesting to be connected at the current time via the equipment available to him, *not* defined by

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him. Similar to dialing a telephone number, the service automatically responds in a predefined manner, not at the direction or request of the user. Further, the choice of modalities by which to respond is made by the second user in *response* to an inquiry by the provider. However, the second user is not “requesting communication services including user-defined request criteria” (claim 4) or “receiving a request ...the request for communication services including user-selected request for service criteria” (claim 7). Rather, the second user is merely *responding* to an inquiry by the provider. The second user is not requesting communication services, he is merely *responding* according to his availability to respond to an inquiry from the service on behalf of the first user.

Further, the Bossi reference fails to teach the limitation of a “means for operating the provider computer to compare user-defined request criteria with the predefined provision of service criteria” (claim 4) or “comparing, ...user-selected request for service criteria with the predefined provision of service criterion of the plurality of communication service providers to determine a degree of match” (claim 7). In Bossi, no comparison is performed when the second user responds to the provider’s inquiry to accept a call via the Internet. There is no need to perform a comparison as the second user is merely responding to an inquiry and *accepting* a modality of communication offered by the provider computer. Further, as required in claim 7, there is no comparing “to determine a degree of match”.

Claim 7 further requires the limitation of “choosing a communication service provider from the degree of match”. The Bossi reference does not teach or suggest “choosing a communication service provider from the degree of match”. Rather, a single service provider is contacting the second user. Thus, there is no selection of “a communication service provider from the degree of match” as a specific service provider is already engaged in the communication service.

The Bossi reference fails to meet the limitations of “requesting communication services including user-defined request criteria” or meet the limitation of a “means for operating the provider computer to compare user-defined request criteria with the predefined provision of service criteria”. As such, the Bossi reference fails to anticipate claim 4 as it fails to teach every

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limitation of claim 4. Similarly, the Bossi reference fails to meet the limitations of “receiving a request ...the request for communication services including user-selected request for service criteria”, “comparing, ...user-selected request for service criteria with the predefined provision of service criterion of the plurality of communication service providers to determine a degree of match” or “choosing a communication service provider from the degree of match”. As such, the Bossi reference fails to anticipate claim 4 as it fails to teach every limitation of claim 7. As claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4, these claims are not anticipated by the Bossi reference.

The Office states that claims 5 and 6 are met by the Bossi reference because Bossi “teaches that the system requires that the user be near internet access”. The Applicant respectfully contends that regardless of the requirements of Bossi, the claim language in neither claims 5 nor 6 are met. Specifically, claim 5 requires that the user-defined criteria include “a criteria that the *communication services provider* is within a specified geographic area”. (emphasis added) In Bossi, the second user is required to contact the communication service provider, and thus, the user must necessarily be close to the internet. In claim 5 however, it is the *communication service provider* that must be within a specified geographic area, not the user. This is vastly different.

Similarly, claim 6 requires that the communication service provider “possesses a wireless communication device” and further be “capable of providing communication services while translocating from one location to another”. Respectfully, the Applicant does not understand the relevance of the Office’s comments in regard to claim 6. Indeed, the Bossi reference does not teach a “wireless communication device” nor does it teach or suggest providing communication services “while translocating from one location to another”. Indeed, in Bossi the service provider is the TRS that provides communication via a telephone or the Internet. However, there is no suggestion or teaching that the TRS “possesses a wireless communication device” nor that it provides communication services “while translocating from one location to another”. Indeed, the conduits for communication, the telephone and Internet, only carry information along the communication lines, they do not move.

The Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended for clarification purposes only, and

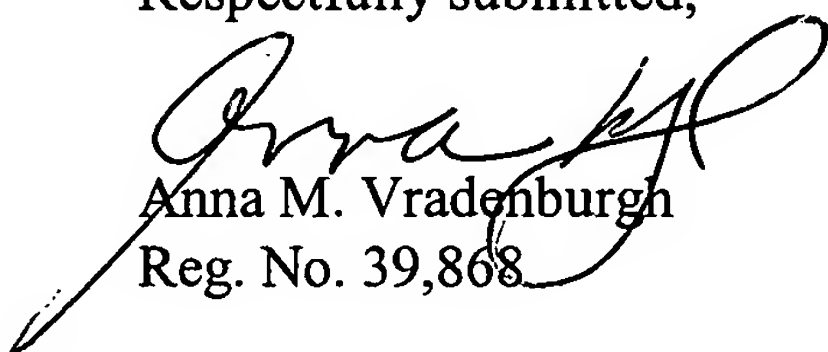
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not for patentability. Similarly, claim 5 has been amended to include additional user-defined criteria, and has not been amended for patentability reasons.

The Applicant has added claims 8-11. Claim 8 depends from claim 6 and is directed to the wireless device. Claims 9-11 depend from claim 7, and are directed to recordation of the services, digital modification of a party and transmitting a request to the plurality of services providers. As these elements are not found, taught or suggested by the cited references, the Applicant asserts that these claims are allowable.

The Applicant contends that the claims are now in allowable form and respectfully requests entry of these amendments and allowance of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna M. Vradenburgh
Reg. No. 39,868

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KOPPEL, JACOBS, PATRICK & HEYBL
555 St. Charles Drive, Suite 107
Thousand Oaks, California 91360
Telephone No. (805)373-0060
Facsimile: (805)373-0051